Disney Adventures
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SNEAK MOVIE PREVIEW

BATMAN FOREVER

Meet the New Batman (Val Kilmer) and Robin (Chris O'Donnell) and Go Behind the Scenes....

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BATMAN

NOW AND

Gotham City awaits you! **D.A.** snuck inside its secret walls to get you the inside story on *Batman Forever*. And we struck (black) gold! Come along with us as we talk to the stars and director and show you the totally new, oh-so-spectacular Batmobile and Batgear.

Last summer, as the Hollywood hotshots were discussing whether **Val Kilmer** would play the new Batman in *Batman Forever*, Val was touring Africa. On the *very* day it was decided that, yes indeed, Val would be the new Caped Crusader, he was still in Africa...in a cave filled with bats! If that doesn't convince you that Val was meant to be Batman, talk to him for a few minutes. D.A. did. And when our conversation ended, we were sure of one thing: Val Kilmer *is* Batman.

Hot car! The new Batmobile blasts a huge 50-foot-long turboflame!

D.A.: Did you read *Batman* comic books or watch the TV show?
V.K.: I never read the comic books. But I remember the day after the first TV show was on. I was in third grade. I hadn't watched it; we weren't really a TV family. Everybody in my class came in talking about it. By the end of the day, I knew the entire plot and was acting it out. I didn't want to be left out.
D.A.: Do you do anything special each day to feel like Batman?
V.K.: No, I don't have to prepare to become

At high speeds, the ultracool Batmobile's wing splits into two to form a *V*!

FOREVER!

By Liz Smith

VAL KILMER

BATMAN

Batman. Once you get in that costume, you definitely want to go after the bad guys. You want to take the law into your own hands. You just feel that way. You *are* Batman.

D.A.: The costume is so cool-looking. What's it like to wear it?

V.K.: It's hard to move. And it shrinks all the time. There are about 20 to 30 Batman suits all hanging in one trailer. It's pretty magnificent to walk through there. There are about 50 people in the costume department (10 to 12 people are there just to take care of the cape alone, doing Batcape stitching, gluing, sewing) working in 24-hour shifts to keep the costume looking good, because the suits get damaged.

D.A.: Do you get hot wearing it?

V.K.: When it's hot out, it gets to be 130 to 140 degrees inside the suit.

D.A.: How do you keep from fainting?

V.K.: I'm impervious to pain. I'm impervious to steel. I'm Batman.

D.A.: Which Batman prop would you like to keep?

Val as Bruce Wayne and his trusty butler, Alfred Pennyworth (played by Michael Gough).

V.K.: Well, I asked for the Batmobile, but I don't think they'll let me have it.

D.A.: How fast does it go?

V.K.: About 160 mph. They wouldn't let me drive it that fast. I wanted to!

D.A.: They should let you. Because, after all, you are...

V.K.: Batman.

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Joel Schumacher, the director of *Batman Forever,* makes it sound like he's got the greatest job in the world. Well, who wouldn't want to get paid to stand around and tell everyone else what to do? Of course, there's lots more to it than that. You've got to keep the wild cast from getting into too much trouble. D.A. talked to Joel about all things batty.

Joel Schumacher

D.A.: Were you happy to get this job?

J.S.: It's a dream come true. I've been a Batman fan ever since I was a kid. The fans of DC Comics believe there are two camps in the world: those who love Superman and those who love Batman. I have always loved Batman.

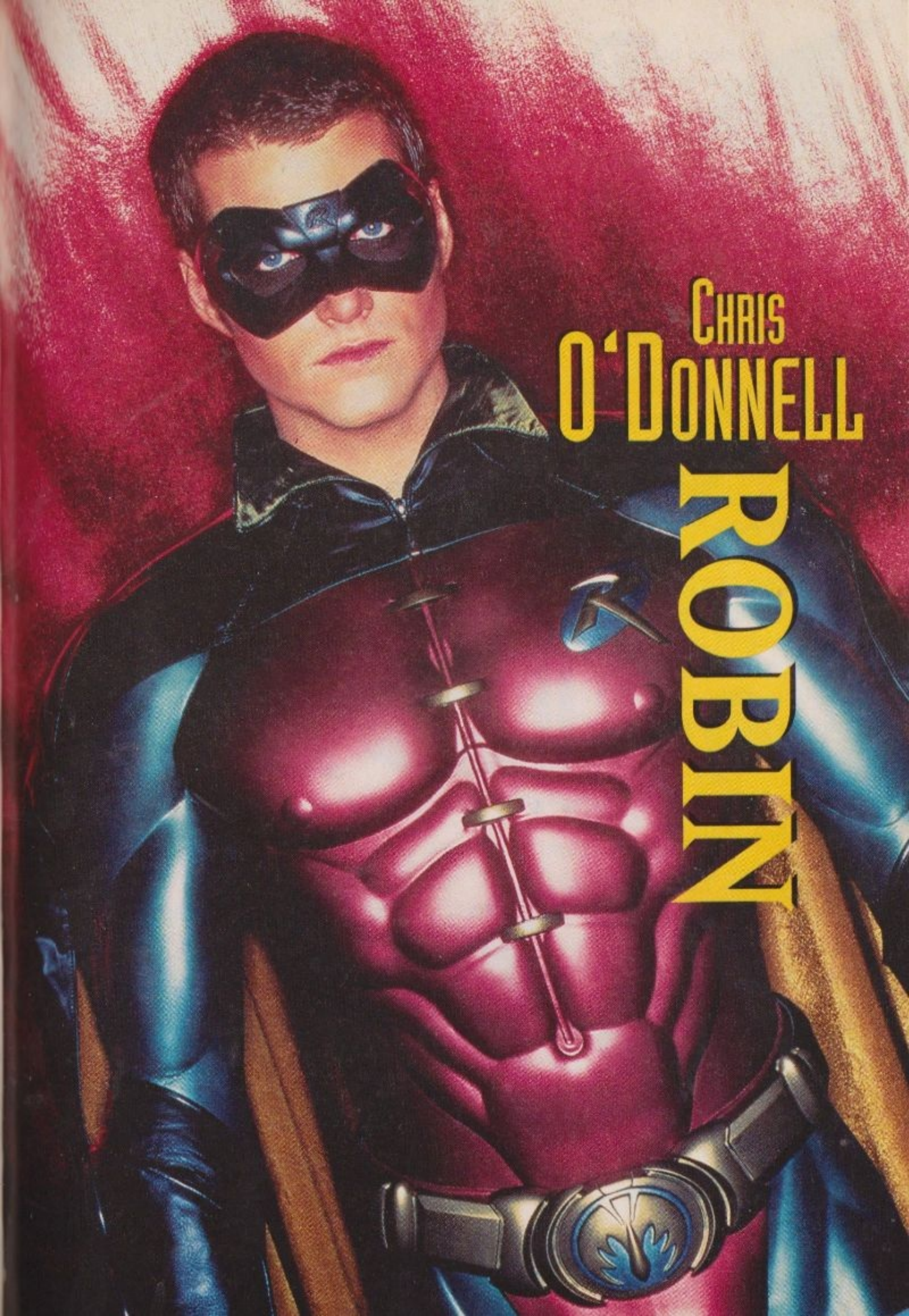
D.A.: What's been the most difficult scene to direct?

J.S.: The scene where Two-Face holds Batman captive in a safe. The safe was small, and shooting it was time-consuming and awkward.

D.A.: How's the cast?

J.S.: Great! They had to work out a lot since it's a physical movie. So they've been at the gym working with martial artists and stunt coordinators.

D.A.: Any set devices you really like?


CHRIS
O'DONNELL
ROBIN

J.S.: That capsule in Bruce's office at Wayne Enterprises goes all the way to the Batcave! Wouldn't that be great to have in real life? Avoid all the traffic!

D.A.: We heard Chris took the Batmobile out for a ride....

J.S.: There's a scene where Robin steals the Batmobile to go on a joyride. One night, we were shooting on the back lot, and Chris wanted to drive it himself. We usually have only stunt drivers drive the Batmobile because it's so expensive and difficult to maneuver. So I got on a loudspeaker and yelled, "Run for cover!" Then Chris took off in the Batmobile—and he crunched the fender on a curb! He was so embarrassed. He said, "I can't believe, of all the people working on this movie, I was the one to do that!"

D.A.: So are you going to take the Batmobile for a spin?

J.S.: Oh, no. I *know* I'd smash it up!

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Robin's got a new attitude! **Chris O'Donnell,** who plays Robin, may have worn a cape and tights in *The Three Musketeers,* but he's hung them up for now. Robin sports a short, sleek haircut, a black leather jacket and an earring! And no wimpy tights—he's got a molded costume just like Batman's. D.A. talked with Chris about being the Boy Wonder.

D.A.: Were you into Batman as a kid?

C.O.: Yeah, I watched

Baaaaad biker dudes!

the TV show, and I had the Batmobile and Batboat. I've been watching the TV-show reruns on cable, and they bring back memories. The movies are so different from the TV show, but the shows back then were great.

D.A.: How did you feel when you heard you were going to play Robin?

C.O.: I was busy working on another film, so it didn't really sink in until I started getting fitted for the costume. Once I put on the suit and started making the movie, it hit me that my face will be all over kids' toys!

D.A.: What do you think of your '90s Robin?

C.O.: Joel's idea is that Dick Grayson [Robin's real identity] is a gypsy lad. And Robin challenges Batman a little bit more. He's definitely not the same Robin as in the TV series. I've been doing a lot of physical training—Dick Grayson was in a circus, and I have to perform on the flying trapeze. Rehearsing that was strange. The first time you're up on that little platform and you swing out, your arms are tired and you want to let go. But you're so afraid of falling that you keep holding on. When you

finally do let go and grab the other bar, it's a thrill.

D.A.: Did you get hurt?

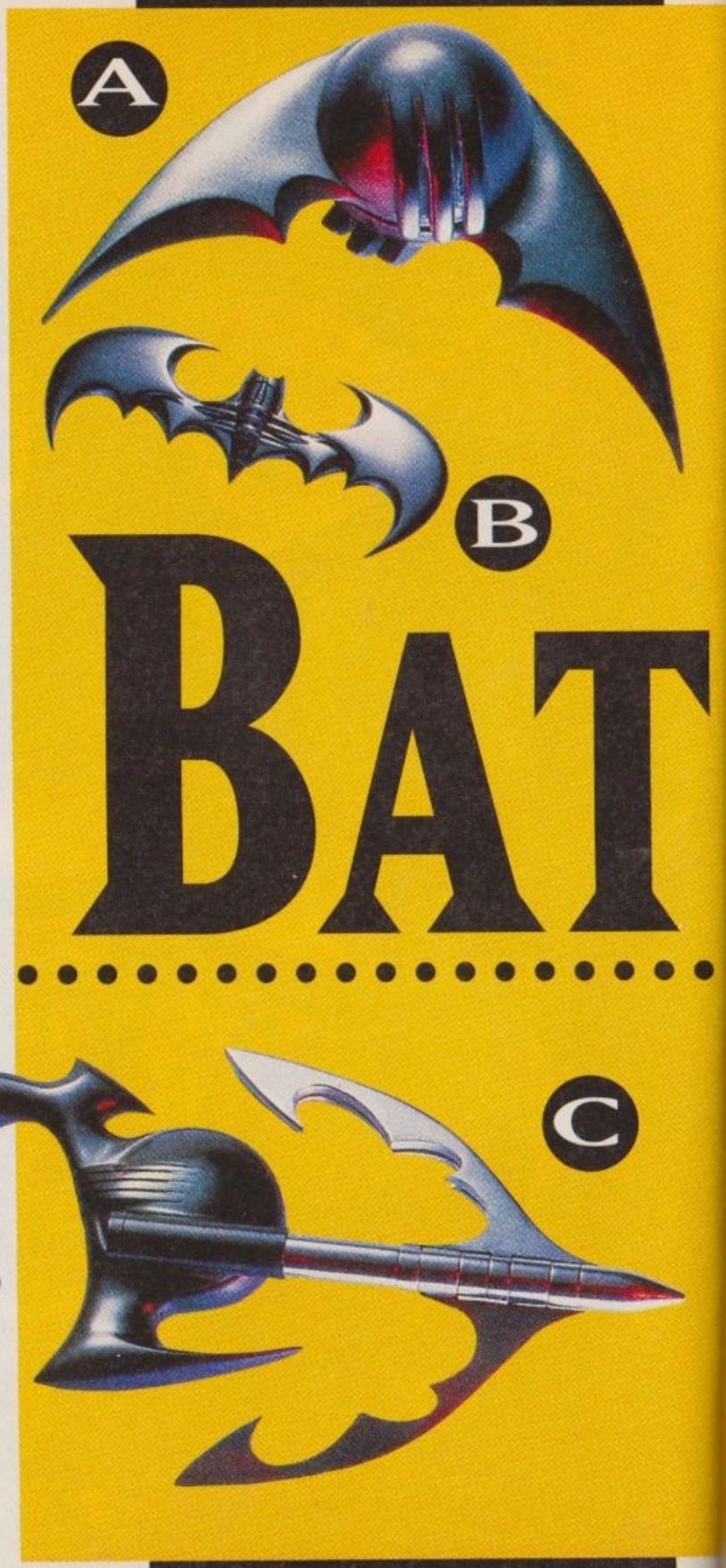
C.O.: Not yet, but we haven't shot the circus scene. That's next week. So keep an eye on the newspapers to see if anything happens.

D.A.: What's been the best thing about making *Batman Forever?*

C.O.: Driving the Batmobile. Unfortunately, I couldn't drive it fast 'cause we were in a small area. I'd love to take it out on the open road.

D.A.: Speaking of the Batmobile, we heard something about a dented fender?

C.O.: Uh, I don't know.... [long pause] All I know is that Joel was given specific instructions to stay out of the Batmobile because he'd be dangerous. That's why he has to drive a big Range Rover with light guards and fender guards all around it—to keep him safe on the road!



Who's responsible for all those way-beyond-cool Batgadgets (and the Batcave and Batmobile) in *Batman Forever*? Production designer Barbara Ling, who let her imagination run wild. She told D.A. that she wanted everything to "truly reflect a bat." Val really liked playing with the Bat Grapple Hook, she says. Barbara's favorite is the Silver Batarang. Check out some of Barbara's masterpieces.

GEAR

A. The classic Black Batarang—Batman's major throwing weapon—in its compact folded mode. **B.** Black Batarang, opened to full size, ready to hit! **C.** Bat Grapple Hook, mounted on its launcher. When this device is fired into solid rock, concrete or metal, Batman can climb sheer edifices on its attached cable. Or he can swing from one surface to another. **D.** Folded Silver Batarang, ready to be fired from Batman's gauntlet. **E.** You won't see the high-tech Silver Batarang (equipped with tracking device) until the end of the movie. **F.** Val told us the Batcuffs are his favorite Batgadget!